(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During the 8th Plan (1992-97) ONGC has planned additional 2-D and 3-D seismic surveys and drilling of exploratory wells in the areas of Assam, Nagaland, Cachar, Tripura, Mizoram and West Bengal.

Oil India Limited in the same period has also planned additional 2-D and 3-D seismic surveys and drilling of exploratory wells in areas of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and North East Coast. Four blocks onshore and three blocks offshore Cachar, Mizoram, West Bengal and North-East Coast have been offered to private companies in the Fourth Round of Bilding for exploration for oil and gas.

(c) Does not arise.

Letters from Members of Parliament

1411. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received in his Ministry from the Members of Parliament during the last 12 months, month-wise;

(b) the number out of them to which acknowledgment and final reply had been sent, month-wise;

(c) the number of the letters still pending, month-wise;

(d) the reasons for the delay in acknowledging the letters and giving final replies thereto; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite the replies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (e). A statement showing the number of letters received, final replies sent and pendency from February, 1991 to January, 1992 is attached. Acknowledgment is sent invariably as and when the communications is received. Out of 3791 communications pending at the end of January, 1992, 3400 relate to Freedom Fighters' Pension which require consultation with State Governments, reference to old records etc. before final reply is sent. Out of the balance of 391, 195 relate to law and order situation for which information has to be collected from the respective State Governments, and in respect of 139, information has to be collected from the Central Police Organisations who in turn have to consult their units since they relate to transfer, postings etc. There is a monthly return to watch the disposal of such receipts. Periodical views are also carried out.

STATEMENT

Number of letters received final - replies sent and pendency from February, 1991 to January, 1992

Month	*No. of letters received from MPs during the last 12 months (month-wise)*	*No of letters in which final reply was sent (month-wise)*	*No. of letters pending (month-wise).* (cumulative)*
			B/F 2119
February, 1991	497	392	2224
March	568	470	2322

Month	*No. of letters received from MPs during the last 12 months (month-wise)*	*No of letters in which final reply was sent (month-wise)*	*No. of letters pending (month-wise).* (cumulative)*
			B/F 2119
April	655	488	2489
May	382	372	2499
June	393	250	2642
July	329	227	2744
August	415	274	2885
September	740	364	3261
October	774	470	3565
November	613	619	3559
December	1103	919	3743
January, 92	557	509	3791

*These are cumulative figures.

Exploration of Gas in Krishna, Godavari and Kaveri Basins

1412. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas has been found in Krishna, Godavari and Kaveri basins;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any schemes for the exploration of gas from these river basins;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any foreign assistance is proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes Sir. Exploration in these basins is continuing and further 2-D and 3-D seismic survey and exploratory drilling by ONGC is planned in the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

(d) and (e). Four blocks in the Krishna-Godavari offshore basin and one in the Cauvery offshore basin have been offered for exploration by foreign and Indian companies under the Fourth Round of Bidding.